

firms over the past year—the highest number ever, and a 2-percent increase over the last record set in 1995. Small businesses employ 53 percent of America's private work force, account for 47 percent of all sales in the country, and generate more than half of our private gross domestic product; and industries dominated by small business produced almost 1.5 million new jobs in the last year alone.

Our challenge now is to help America's small business community build on this phenomenal record of success. My Administration is committed to giving small business men and women the opportunity to realize their dreams. The Small Business Administration has a portfolio guaranteeing over \$27 billion in loans to 185,000 small businesses that otherwise would not have access to such capital. We are encouraging microenterprise through the Department of Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund, an initiative that makes it easier for prospective entrepreneurs to obtain the training and financing they need to start their own businesses. Working in partnership with State governments, we are striving to help modernize our Nation's small and medium-sized manufacturers and removing regulatory barriers to the adoption of new technologies in such fields as telemedicine, building and construction, and environmental technologies. We have also developed a National Export Strategy to help America's small and medium-sized businesses realize their export potential and compete effectively in the global marketplace.

As we observe Small Business Week, I join all Americans in saluting the men and women who have embraced the opportunities our country offers, whose hard work is transforming their communities, and whose energy and initiative are building our country into the kind of Nation we want to be in the 21st century.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 1 through June 7, 1997, as Small Business Week. I call upon Government officials and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage the development of new enterprises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7009 of June 6, 1997

Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1997

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Our Nation's flag has always flown in the vanguard of the American journey, reminding us of our proud past and beckoning us into a future full of promise. Its bold colors reflect the courage and exuberance of

the American people, and its simple but inspired design symbolizes both the unity and diversity that define our Nation.

Adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, the Stars and Stripes became the official flag of the young United States and a compelling symbol of our new independence. Woven into its folds were the hopes, dreams, and determination of the extraordinary individuals who founded this country—hopes for a system of government that would honor the rights and dignity of every citizen; dreams that their great experiment in democracy would succeed; and determination to ensure that success, even at the cost of their own lives. Since that time, generations of Americans have invested the flag with their own hopes and dreams. Millions of immigrants, traveling to these shores to flee poverty or oppression, have rejoiced at their first glimpse of the American flag, confident that its promise of freedom, equality, and opportunity would prove true for them and their families.

We have carried Old Glory to places undreamed of by our founders, from the depths of Earth's oceans to the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon. Through conflict and in peace, on missions of exploration and on missions of mercy, the flag has led us wherever our questing spirits have been willing to venture, and whenever America's freedom, security, and values have been threatened.

On Flag Day and during National Flag Week, I encourage all Americans to join me in reflecting on the proud history and profound meaning of our flag. And let us pledge to keep faith with those generations of patriots, both military and civilian, who gave their lives to keep the flag flying over a Nation that is free, strong, and true to our highest ideals.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the Flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested the President, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), to issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1997, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 8, 1997, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all Federal Government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places.

I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor our Nation, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7010 of June 12, 1997

Father's Day, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Raising a child is a sacred mission, and the man who welcomes this mission and embraces the obligations of fatherhood is someone who truly deserves our recognition and gratitude. On Father's Day, we honor all the men across our country who have affirmed the importance of parenthood by willingly assuming its important responsibilities.

The tight grasp of a newborn baby's tiny hand curled around his or her father's finger only hints at the strength of the bond that will grow in all the seasons of life between father and child. Caring fathers are not content to merely safeguard their children's physical well-being, but also seek to foster their spiritual and moral growth, and pass on their most cherished values. Mentor, teacher, coach, friend, and hero, a father gives his son or daughter all that his mind, his hands, and his heart can provide. No work is too hard, no sacrifice is too great if doing so will strengthen, protect, nurture, and instill joy in his child.

Fathers teach their children to take pride in themselves and their work, to assume responsibility for their lives and character, and to understand the rewards of sharing with others. Most important, fathers—whether biological, adoptive, or foster—offer the strong, steady current of love that sustains their sons and daughters through the good times and bad times that all of us face.

Our Nation is blessed that so many Americans cherish the role of fatherhood in our families, for fathers add a crucial stability and strength to our lives. On Father's Day, let us honor and give thanks to these men who share with their children not only the precious gifts of life and love, but also their time, attention, and the kind of caring concern that lasts a lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 15, 1997, as Father's Day. I invite the States, communities, and citizens of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that demonstrate our deep respect and abiding affection for our fathers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON